

Message Text

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56

ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 EA-07 /112 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NTB:RSROCHLIN:AAJ

APPROVED BY ACDA/NTB:TDDAVIES

NSC:JMARCUM

C:LFUERTH

OSD:TGEORGE/JLANDAUER

ERDA:RDUFF

CIA:TFROSCHER

NEA:ADAY

PM:EIFFT

NEA/EGY:GBEYER

OES:JDEVINE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 175298

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: ENRG, EG, PARM

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS

REFS: (A) IAEA VIENNA 4180, (B) CAIRO 5797 (NOTAL),
(C) CAIRO 5563 (NOTAL), (D) CAIRO 2096 (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

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1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE RESPONDS TO THE COMMENTS YOU MADE WHILE ON CONSULTATION.

2. WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT REPORTS OF STATEMENTS (REFTELS A, B) REGARDING QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY. WE BELIEVE THAT UNLESS PRE-CAUTIONARY NOTICE IS PROVIDED NOW, THERE IS RISK OF FUTURE EGYPTIAN MISUNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION ON RELATION OF LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY TO USE OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN CARRYING OUT PROJECT, LEADING TO POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. BAD FAITH AT LATER STAGE OF PROJECT.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT WERE TOLD IN NOVEMBER 1975 THAT, BASED ON OUR STUDIES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT MAJOR NUCLEAR EXCAVATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE QATTARA PROJECT AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED, WITHOUT VIOLATING THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. HOWEVER, RECENT INFORMATION (REFTELS A, C, D) INDICATES THAT THESE OFFICIALS MAY STILL NOT FULLY APPRECIATE THIS. OTHER REPORTS (REFTELS A, B) SUGGEST THAT PROJECT OFFICIALS MAY BE RECEIVING CONTRARY ADVICE FROM U.S. COMPANY CER GEONUCLEAR WHICH IS SUBCONTRACTOR FOR PNE PORTION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY. - -

4. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING, IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO ENSURE THAT LEADERSHIP OF GOE FULLY AWARE OF U.S. POSITION. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU SEE SERIOUS OBJECTION, COMMUNICATE U.S. POSITION STATED PARA 5 DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS.

5. THE U.S. VIEWS WHICH WE WISH TO COMMUNICATE ARE AS FOLLOWS: - - -

A. THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE INTEREST OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IN ENSURING THAT THE EVALUATION OF POSSIBLE METHODS FOR CARRYING OUT THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT IS AS THOROUGH AND REALISTIC AS POSSIBLE. USG ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO FEASIBILITY STUDY HAVE BEEN BASED ON U.S.

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DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO EGYPTIAN REQUEST TO ASSIST IN ASSESSMENT OF ALL POSSIBLE METHODS;

B. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, WE WISH TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN QATTARA PROJECT OR THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. WHILE U.S. VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO GOE AT LOWER LEVELS, WE

ARE NOT CERTAIN THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF SENIOR OFFICIALS AND WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOE ARE FULLY AWARE OF U.S. POSITION;

C. UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES MUST, OF COURSE, BE CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER FULLY CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING TREATY OBLIGATIONS, IN PARTICULAR, WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1963 LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY TO WHICH THE U.S., EGYPT, AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ARE PARTIES;

D. U.S. STUDIES INDICATE THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT MAJOR PNE EXCAVATION PROJECTS WITHOUT VIOLATING THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY.

E. THE EGYPTIANS SHOULD NOT INTERPRET ANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGES TO DATE AS IMPLYING A U.S. AGREEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE BEYOND THAT INDICATED IN THE NOVEMBER 4, 1975, LETTER TO MINISTER SULTAN OR AN ENDORSEMENT OR ENCOURAGEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN THE QATTARA PROJECT.

6. REFTELS BEING REPEATED AS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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